

**San Francisco Estuary Project
Implementation Committee Meeting**

August 4, 2006

Elihu M. Harris State Building
Oakland, California

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Introductions/Approval of May 5, 2006 Meeting Summary

Tom Mumley, Chair of the Implementation Committee, called the meeting to order shortly after 10 o'clock. A round table of introductions followed and he gave a quick overview of the agenda. There will be two presentations; spartina control and mercury research; decisions on the CCMP Update process; approving the Finance Strategy and the small grants program.

Action: The Meeting Summary for May 5, 2006 was approved.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. CCMP Aquatic Resources Management

A. Spartina Control Project: Peggy Olofson, Director, Invasive Spartina Project (ISP)

Peggy Olofson gave a power point presentation explaining the introduction of non-native spartina species to the Estuary in the 1970s and how the plant differs from the native foliosa species which has a special niche in the marshes. The invasive spartina reproduces rapidly and colonially sending out seed and runners – between 2001-2004 there was a 300% increase in colonized acreage. The greatest spread is in open mud flats and newly restored tidal marsh. The biggest challenge is that endangered clapper rails like the plant although it eventually pushes them out of their foraging area. It also hybridizes with the native foliosa making it more difficult to eradicate. The EIR/EIS took 3 years and 9 partners received grants from the Coastal Conservancy to begin eradication. By 2005 the ISP had treated over 1000 acres (70%) with herbicide applied by helicopters. The cost is approx. \$ 250/acre. Preliminary results for the eradication look very successful, however the ISP will continue for several more years.

4. CCMP Pollution Prevention and Reduction

B. Recent Mercury Research Findings: Don Yee, SFEI

The background for new mercury research relates to the large number of Bay area tidal wetland restoration projects now in the planning stages. Mercury is high in Bay-Delta biota and this correlates to the percent of mercury in wetlands. Restoration must guard against being viewed as an attractive nuisance—making a place to poison the environment. Not all mercury is equal...methyl mercury is the most bio-accumulative, but it is also subject to degradation, both microbial and photo-degradation. Reduced oxygen also matters, more oxygen favors less methyl mercury. Nitrogen also matters for methylating bacteria. Wetlands close to the Bay such as the Gambonini marsh, Petaluma marsh, Black John's Slough show higher methyl mercury concentrations than in pre-industrial days. Mercury concentrations are higher in the Central Delta but also in Bay fish. To prevent production of methyl mercury is the number one control tool. Scientists

need to address risk through adaptive management; monitoring of the problem (before, during, after restoration); more research; weigh pros and cons for restoration sites. Mercury research needs include studying fish accumulation, migratory birds and process studies.

Action: Barbara Salzman would like to receive Don Yee's power point.

She would like more information on how this relates to health issues; what levels are problematic and how to manage.

5. CCMP Update Approach and Request for Approval

The Workgroup facilitators for the CCMP Update gave short reports on their group's activities.

Rick Morat, USFWS: Aquatic Resources and Wildlife

Workgroup members are actively participating; there have been 3 meetings to date, the next meeting is 08/14/06 at the Water Board. Rick presented a handout (attached) which listed members of the workgroup and topics being considered for revision (monitoring, ballast water) and new actions (unintentional invasives, marine debris, study of freshwater flows).

Cathy Bleier, Resources Agency & Rainer Hoenicke, SFEI: Watersheds/Land Use

The Workgroup has met multiple times. There is a fair amount of revision to this program area. There is a mailing list of 25-30 people on the workgroup. Delta Planning Commission is monitoring progress and making comments. The next meeting is 09/06/06 at the Water Board.

Tom Mumley for Richard Looker, Water Board: Pollution Prevention

The workgroup has met twice, a third meeting is scheduled for 08/08/06, at the Water Board. The group is making good progress: adding a goal on stream and wetland function as related to pollution prevention; expanding urban runoff action items; and addressing large scale infrastructure improvements for pollution prevention.

Marcia Brockbank gave updates on the Wetlands, Water Use and Dredging/LTMS program areas. The wetlands workgroup chaired by Mike Monroe and Luisa Valiela of EPA has met three times and is making good progress; there are over 10 new action items.

The Water Use group has completed work and Cindy Darling, facilitator is finalizing text and will make a presentation to the IC at the November 3 meeting.

Action: Staff will check with BCDC, EPA and the LTMS Group on progress for the dredging/waterway modification program area. Peter LaCivita also will follow-up.

Steering Committee: Tom Mumley explained the workgroup facilitators, staff and he as IC Chair are acting as the Steering Committee for the CCMP Update effort to resolve conflict or overlap issues, to develop the standards for performance measures and other issues that affect all program areas. He asked if any IC members want to join the committee; the next meeting is following the IC meeting this afternoon. He requested approval from the IC for recognizing the Steering Committee as proposed.

Action: IC approved the Steering Committee as proposed.

Marcia Brockbank provided a power point presentation for approval of the proposed process for the CCMP Update Addendum. There will be 2 presentations on each program area to the IC; the first to describe the revisions and updates and request public comment; the second to incorporate any requested changes deemed significant by the IC and request adoption (by vote). There will also be a new Introduction to the Addendum which will discuss successes and challenges since the 1993 adoption of the CCMP. It will be a "mini" State of the Estuary report. The Introduction also will be presented twice to the IC. The entire Addendum with all revised program areas and Introduction will be presented to the IC for adoption.

At the November 3 meeting, facilitators will make short oral presentations on their program area and provide brief written descriptions of the scope of revisions and new action items. Controversial actions will be highlighted. The IC can challenge or raise concerns with workgroups on issues.

There was a discussion of the need for more public outreach for the Update process. The public needs the opportunity to comment. Staff stated that in February 2006, SFEP had sent out over 500 letters to interested parties notifying of the Update and requesting participation. It was announced in *Estuary* newsletter and at Friends of the Estuary and IC meetings.

IC members recommended that CCMP Update information regularly be put on the SFEP website, including workgroup meeting dates and meeting summaries. It was pointed out there is a public comment period at all IC meetings. It was recommended the November IC meeting be highly publicized announcing an opportunity for public input on all areas; and that the first workgroup area, Water Use, is presenting its chapter. There was a recommendation to send a letter to Executive Council members and all IC member organizations describing the Update process and confirming their representatives and alternates on the IC.

Action: Staff will communicate to Executive Council and IC members the CCMP Update approach and schedule and will ask them to confirm their representatives and alternates on the IC. A briefing or more information on the Update process also will be offered.

Action: A Public Outreach Strategy will be presented at the November meeting.

IC members discussed the Update process including the two program area presentations, the Addendum Introduction, all to be completed by August 2007. To meet the August date, the IC would need to meet the first Friday of February, March, April, May and June. IC members agreed their feedback is critical to the workgroups and discussed how far in advance they would need to see the material; how long after the first presentation would the workgroup have to make corrections; should there be conference call-in for the IC meetings. Staff pointed out the length of meetings would have to be extended to cover the Update process as well as normal business activities, such as annual work plan approval, State of the Estuary Conference, CCMP Workshop, etc.

Action: The IC agreed on the following: two meetings per program area; material would be sent to the IC two weeks prior to the meeting; monthly meetings February through June 2007; length of IC meetings would have to be extended; the

comment period would require response to the workgroup within 2 weeks of the first presentation.

It was explained that old actions (being revised or as is) do not require performance measures; only new actions require performance measures. The accepted format is for a 10-year time frame. Posting IC meeting summaries on the SFEP website will give IC access and will integrate posting as part of public outreach strategy. There will be some scientific peer review requested of proposed new actions.

Action: By February 2 staff will have available the schedule for program area presentations and regular IC business items (annual work plan, budget, etc.).

6. SFEP Issues/ Activities

A. Finance Strategy: Marcia Brockbank briefly described the SFEP Finance Strategy (included in the meeting packet as Attachment D) and requested approval. It was suggested that SFEP should investigate a license plate fund and a state budget line item allocation in combination with other California NEPs.

Action: Financial Strategy was approved.

B. Small Grant Program

Carol Thornton, SFEP staff described the program process and requested volunteer reviewers for proposals that are due October 6. There will be two meetings; one to divide up proposals; and a second to select proposals for award. Ted Smith volunteered.

Action: Approved process and schedule.

7. Agenda for November Meeting

Sole focus will be on CCMP Update - presentation of the Water Use program area and facilitator's presentations of other program areas.

8. Announcements and Adjourn

SFEP Staff are working on a CA Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan and will hold public meetings on the draft on August 28 in Sacramento at the Dept. of Food and Agriculture; August 30 in Oakland at the ABAG/MTC Metro Center; and in Long Beach at the Port of Long Beach on Sept. 1, 2006. A handout was available.

SFEP is assisting with organization of the CALFED Science Conference in Sacramento October 23-25, 2006 at the convention center. Program and registration information will be available on the conference website at <http://science.calwater.ca.gov/conferences>

SFEP I/C Meeting Attendees Friday, August 4, 2006

Jeff Blanchfield, BCDC
Cathy Bleier, Resources Agency
Phil Bobel, City of Palo Alto
Arthur Feinstein, Citizens to Complete the Refuge
Richard Gordon, Supervisor, San Mateo County
Rainer Hoenicke, SFEI

Beth Huning, SFBJV
Barbara Kondylis, Supervisor, Solano County
Peter LaCivita, USACOE
Rick Morat, USFWS
Tom Mumley, SF Bay Water Board
Peggy Olofson, Invasive Spartina Project
Michael Perrone, DWR
Barbara Salzman, Marin Audubon
Ted Smith, Friends of the Estuary
Don Yee, SFEI

SFEP Staff
Marcia Brockbank
Debbi Egter Van Wissekerke
Carol Thornton
Paula Trigueros